

KVUUC News



Kittitas Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation

March 2018

Worship in March

March 4

Our Hospital Project in Cameroon - Dr. Blaise Dondji
Green Sanctuary/Social Justice Council, 12 :15 pm

March 11

"Listen, the Birds are Singing" - Rev. Bill & Frances Wood,
KVUUC Choir
Worship Council, 12:15 pm

March 18

Touchstones
Membership Council, 12:15 pm

March 25

Passover - Dr. Lily Vuong
CommNet, 12:15 pm

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*Adult Discussion Group 9:45 –10:45am
Every Sunday (except 5th)*

JOE KING

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Saturday, March 17, 2pm

CWU Sue Lombard Hall
601 E University Way

Officiant Rev. Bill Graves

Rev. Bill invites you to share your thoughts about Joe and how he affected your life. These will be compiled for the service.

Please send your reflections on Joe King to wcgraves@whidbey.com by March 15

Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Mon, 3/5 | • Religious Education Council, 7 pm |
| Wed, 3/7 | • KVUU Board Meeting, 6 pm |
| Thu, 3/8 | • Adult Ed "Our Long Strange Trip, Pt. 3", KVUUC 7 pm (pizza 6:30) |
| Fri, 3/9 | • Concert to benefit FISH Food Bank, 7 pm, Methodist Church |
| Sat, 3/10 | • Lay Leader Training Workshop (see p.2) , 10 am, KVUUC |
| Sat, 3/17 | • Joe King Celebration of Life, CWU Lombard Hall, 2 pm |
| 4/27–29 | • UU Pacific Regional Assembly, Portland OR (see p. 3) |

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Those Tricky Words: “Spiritual” & “Spirituality”

Rev. Bill Graves

About 17 years ago I was attending a worship committee meeting at a UU congregation. I made the remark that I thought we needed to ensure that all our services, whether they were primarily about social justice, or history, or a congregational finance, needed to include a spiritual context. I was immediately challenged by a rather senior member of the congregation, one I knew to be an outspoken advocate of rather hard-line humanist beliefs. “When you use terms like ‘spiritual’ or ‘spirituality’, he said, I haven’t a clue what you are talking about. Please edify me.”



Rev. Bill Graves

I expect I was tongue-tied into some lame response such as “I know it when I see it.” I have had 17 years to think it through and it is still not easy to articulate. That’s because at its basic level it is incorporeal, it can’t be weighed or measured or photographed. What does that encompass? To the extent it conjures up supernatural beings such as fairies, sprites, angels, demons, gods, or their claimed manifestations, I would agree with my friend. But there is much more to the spiritual realm. I see it as the vital principle that animates the physical, including the human body. It’s also the non-material expressions of that animation such as music, art, poetry, ethics, values, and the emotions that are stirred in us such as wonder, awe, gratitude, love, compassion. Aha, I think I am getting closer to what I feel should be alive in our worship services.

There are several other dimensions of spirituality that are helpful.

First, it has something to do with desire; to be and do something other than couch-potato nothingness. It is the eros inside of us and how we handle the pain and the hope it brings to us. Two persons in my lifetime that were filled with that spiritual eros were Mother Teresa and Janis Joplin. One shaped it into amazingly constructive ways and the other let it consume her.

A second dimension of spirituality has to do with relationship, the heart’s longing to be connected to the largeness of life; the mystical oneness which makes us our neighbor’s keeper. That brings me to a favorite definition, by Richard S. Gilbert:

“Spirituality is overcoming our narcissism, our preoccupation with a nonstop celebration of self.... The deeper we delve into the innermost recesses of our soul the more intensely we identify with other human beings, the more we see our common humanity”.

That, my friends, is worthy of working upon.

How to Be a Lay Worship Leader Workshop

Saturday, March 10, 10 - 11:30 am

We would love to expand our group of Sunday worship service leaders. If this is a way you might consider contributing to KVVUUC you are invited to attend a workshop on worship presentation to be led by Rev. Bill on Saturday, March 10 at 10 am.

We will discuss values, techniques and expectations that go into producing a quality worship experience. The workshop will last roughly 1 ½ hours.

For questions or to RSVP, contact Bill at wcgraves@whidbey.com or 360-661-7289.

Bill's Blurbs for March

SUNDAY SERVICES

March 11, 11 am

“Listen, the Birds Are Singing”

Rev. Bill Graves and Frances Wood

Religious Naturalism is a spiritual strand that resonates well with many Unitarian Universalists. Exquisitely beautiful and endlessly fascinating birds are all around us awaiting our notice, especially now as we are on the cusp of the spring migration. Bill and his wife, Frances, will explore how birds can open a spiritual pathway into reverence of the natural world. They will be assisted along the way by such naturalists as St. Francis of Assisi, John Muir and Thomas Merton.

Frances Wood is the author of four books including *Brushed by Feathers: A Year of Birdwatching in the West*. For nearly two decades she has written a monthly column on birdwatching. Frances was co-creator and writer for *BirdNote*, a daily two-minute radio program on the intriguing ways of birds. An avid naturalist and artist, Frances is painting a growing collection of portraits of the common birds of the West.

ADULT CLASSES

“Our Long Strange Trip: UU History in Depth”

In February we began a six-session series exploring the great story of UU history based on a video series called “Long Strange Trip” by Ron Cordes.

Thursday, March 8, 7 pm
(Veggie pizza, 6:30)

Part 3—“American Unitarianism 1620-1860”

This is the story of the pilgrims, the birth of congregational polity, minister/scientist Joseph Priestly and his impact upon our nation's founding fathers, and the liberalizing of New England Christianity leading to the formation of a Unitarian Association and the Transcendentalist movement. Again, the class will be based on a video series titled “Our Long Strange Trip.”

K-1 Grade OWL Coming Soon, Nearly Full!

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a set of six human sexuality curricula co-developed by the UUA and the United Church of Christ for different age levels.

OWL: Sexuality Education for Grades K-1 helps you educate your child about birth, babies, bodies, and families. You will be actively involved as your child learns through songs, stories, activities and at-home projects that promote family dialogue.

SCHEDULE - Sundays, 3- 4:30 pm

- March 11—Parent Information Meeting
- March 25—Parent/Child Orientation (REQUIRED for both parent & child)
- April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; May 6, 13, 20—Sessions

TEACHERS—Dan Shissler, Kristen Paton, Leah Irwin

COST \$25/child. Contact Maggie Patterson, coordinator@kvuu.org or 509-925-2552

Pub Theology Group

Hi there UU's!

I am the new interim campus minister for the CWU Wesley Club at the Ellensburg United Methodist church and I lead a Pub Theology discussion group on Thursdays.

I'd like to invite anyone from your church and beyond to join us! We meet Thursdays at 7pm at Whipsaw Brewery and enjoy discussion about different topics. I use a pub theology book as a resource and sometimes Ted Talks for questions and we just go on random tangents from there. It's a really fun way to gain different perspectives. So far, we haven't had many community members join us - mostly just college students right now and me. We'd love to expand our group! All perspectives are welcome!

PUB THEOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP

Thursdays, 7 pm

Whipsaw Brewery

704 N Wenas St, Ellensburg

Last week we talked about doubt and the week before we had questions about culture and society. If you have any questions or want to hear more about what it's all about - feel free to give me a call: 937-441-9449.

Katie Rau

CWU Wesley Club
Ellensburg UMC
210 N Ruby St
509-962-9257

Rev. Bill's Ellensburg Schedule March 2018

- 1-5 Whidbey Island office**
- 6-11 Ellensburg office hours at KUUUC*
- 7 Board meeting: 6pm
- 8 Open time for coffee/conversation at
Dakota Café – 8:30-10:00am
- 8 Choir Practice - 5:15 pm
- 8 Adult RE class "UU History in Depth Part 3"
See p. 3. (pizza 6:30; class 7-8:30pm).
- 9 At Fish Benefit Concert - Methodist Church
- 10 Lay Worship Leader Workshop - KUUUC
- 10 KV Interfaith Alliance planning mtg , 6pm at
Jen Stuart's house
- 11 Worship Service at KUUUC ; Council mtg
- 17 Joe King Celebration of Life Service
- 25 Lead Service at UU of Whidbey Island
- 12-31 Whidbey Island office**

Rev. Bill Graves 360-661-7289, wcgraves@whidbey.com
PO Box 1254, Langley, WA 98260

*In Ellensburg available by appt. for conversation, meetings, counseling, listening,, home or hospital visits, or camaraderie.

**Available to return phone calls or emails when on Whidbey; also available by Skype or similar by prior arrangement.

FOOD DRIVE!

We are currently collecting food for the FISH Food Bank and Kittitas Neighborhood Pantry, with donations being split evenly between the two.

FISH is having a "March Madness" contest to see which organization can donate the most food. Let's see if KUUUC can win! Last week we donated 47 lbs. to each food bank. Thanks so much to all who donated, especially the children who convinced their parents to buy things!

See Tom Duke or Maggie Patterson for questions.

Religious Education

Maggie Patterson, Religious Education Coordinator

Dates to Remember

- **Sun, Mar. 4:** Celebration Sunday. No RE. All ages meet in the zendo during the service to paint our Peace-and-Justice Pole we'll install in the bee garden in April. Adults can paint, as well, after the service.

More information on Posts for Peace & Justice: www.postsforpeaceandjustice.org or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PeacePosts/>

- **Mon, Mar. 5:** 7pm RE meeting at KVVUUC. All are welcome!
- **Sun, Mar. 11:** Regular RE classes*
- **Sun, Mar. 18:** No RE or childcare. Have a lovely spring break!
- **Sun, Mar. 25:** Regular RE classes*

*Regular RE:

Society of the Magi, Zendo, 9:45-10:45 am
Teachers: Dan Schissler or Kristen Paton with an assistant.

Chalice Children, Zendo, during the service
Teachers: Becca Wassell, Izze Arens, or Maggie Patterson, an assistant and a childcare provider.

Maggie Patterson, RE Coordinator
margaretfultonpatt@gmail.com or
509-925-2552(home)

Maggie's Inspirational Quotes

"Treat people as if they were what they ought to be and you will help them become what they are capable of becoming." -**Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe**

"Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy." -**Thomas Merton**

GOT ART?

We are accepting art, poetry or other short works to put on a Children's Page in the newsletter. To submit, send to news@kvuu.org, or Maggie



Kids & Youth Programs, Childcare at UU PWR Regional Assembly

The Pacific West Regional Assembly in Portland, Oregon, April 27-29, (see p.6) has something for people of every age. For younger folk we'll have a UU Kids Camp for ages 5-14, a Youth Assembly for ages 14-18, and high-quality childcare for infants to age 4. Families can spend time together, too, sharing the opening ceremony, Sunday morning worship, mealtimes, and more.

Because of our UU commitment to including children and youth, the PWR is covering much of the cost. The registration fee is just a portion of what it costs for these engaging, inclusive, and faith-building programs.

The PWR Assembly promises to be an experience that deepens UU identity and fosters hope and resilience in people of all ages. Register now and join us in Portland!

Regional Mission Trip for Youth and Adults this summer!

- Do you have a passion for environmental justice?
- Have you been interested to partner with grass-roots organizations to create a lasting partnership in solidarity with local communities?
- Have you ever wanted to make a real difference while learning hands on skills and concepts?

“Pacific Western Region Justice Journey: Roots, Reflections and Relationships - An Environmental Justice Journey.

A week long immersion experience focusing on Environmental Sustainability through service, learning, and a meditation practice designed to be reflective and to sustain future justice work.

Sat, July 14 - Sun, July 22, 2018 at
Throop Unitarian Universalist Church
300 S. Los Robles Ave. , Pasadena, CA 91101

You are invited! 25 multigenerational participants— Families with youth, YA's and adults welcome. Cost is \$550.00 pp, inc. meals, lodging, local transportation. (Transportation to Pasadena is not included.)

Scholarships are available!

Information: <https://www.uua.org/pacific-western/calendar> [select July]

Registration: <https://register.pwruua.org/event-registrations/pwr-mission-trip/>

Contact: Katie Covey, PWR Mission Trip Lead at katiecovey@gmail.com.

UUA Pacific Western 2018 Regional Assembly, Portland OR April 27—29

The four districts of the UUA's Pacific Western Region will gather April 27-29 in Portland, OR for the 2018 Regional Assembly. Speakers include:

- Civil rights activist, the **Rev. Dr. William Barber**
- Washington Congresswoman **Pramila Jayapal**, advocate for women's, immigrant, civil, and human rights
- **The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray**, newly elected UUA president.

Programming includes workshops, worship, district meetings, and an optional social justice activity. A day-long Professional Day designed for religious professionals is planned for Friday, April 27, before the start of Regional Assembly.

Discount lodging is available at the Portland DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, site of the Regional Assembly.

Childcare and youth programming will be available.

Early Bird adult registration ends Wednesday, January 31. Discounts available for young adults, youth, and children.

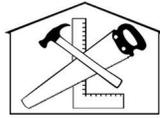
For full details, go to the PWR website, www.uua.org/pwr.

KVUUC Skills & Services

If you would like advertise your skill or service to our congregation, contact Jim at 509-933-3198 or Paula at 405-312-2786

DON GALLAGHER - Quality Carpentry

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JAN JAFFE - Adult music lessons! Also available as a performance coach for individuals, ensembles, bands, worship teams, etc. Improve skills and build confidence for talent shows, competitions, and workshops.



\\Piano, guitar, voice \\Master of Music Education CWU, 2009 \\Flexible evening schedule for regular or special occasion lessons \\Experienced teacher \\Specialist beginner & hobby adult lessons \\All music styles, songwriting, & theory

509-679-1383 janjaffe@gmail.com
www.linkedin.com/in/missjan

DEBBIE WILLIAMS - Brick Road Books.



Used and new books. Turn your lightly used current reads into a donation to KVUUC—just tell Daniel or Debbie that the proceeds from selling your books should go to KVUUC. Family-owned and operated.

305 N. Main Street 509-925-1999

PAULA McMINN - Green Cleaning Service



Housecleaning with earth friendly, non-toxic products. Experienced. Local references available.

509-859-1016 mmcminn18@gmail.com

KVUUC Board and Staff

Board

Co-Presidents:

Kristen Paton & Debbie Williams
[copresident\[1 or 2\]@kvuu.org](mailto:copresident[1 or 2]@kvuu.org)

Past Co-President:

Karen Johnson
pastpresident@kvuu.org

Secretary:

Vivian Dunbar
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Minister:

Rev. Bill Graves
minister@kvuu.org

- Available by arrangement
- Call (360) 661-7289 or email w Graves@whidbey.com

Religious Education Coordinator:

Maggie Patterson
recoordinator@kvuu.org

Music Director:

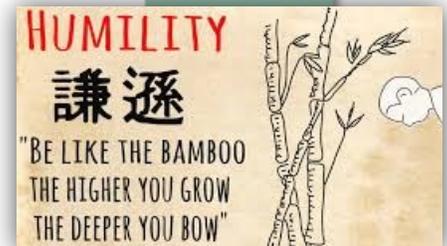
Jan Jaffe
music@kvuu.org

Newsletter

Editor:

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March



Theme

Connect With Us

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Visit us on the web at kvuu.org